

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

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PASS AGRICULTURE (HUGHES) AND STR

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: OVIP, JA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JAPANESE DIET MEMBERS

REF: (A) TOKYO 13524 (B) STATE 193055

1. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON DIET MEMBERS REQUESTED REFTEL

(B) FOLLOWS:

(A) TOKURARO HIGAKI, AGE 60; PRESENT: 2ND TERM UPPER HOUSE FROM EHIME PREF.; CHAIRMAN, INTEGRATED AGRIC. POLICY RE-SEARCH COMMITTEE OF LDP; CHAIRMAN, DIETMEN TREE FRUIT LEAGUE (180 MEMBERS); INFLUENTIAL DECISION-MAKER RE ORANGE TRADE POLICY. 1967-70: VICE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TRANSLATION OF HIGAKI'S VIEWS ON ORANGES PRESENTED DURING PRE-U.S. DEPARTURE INTERVIEW THAT APPEARED IN JAPAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL JULY 28 (FULL TEXT FORWARDED TO LOOPER/FITZSIMMONDS, USDA/FAS): "THERE IS AN OVER-PRODUCTION OF MIKAN AT HOME. THIS IS THE RESULT OF ENCOURAGING ORCHARD FARMING, UNDER THE "POLICY OF SELECTIVE EXPANSION." AT ANY RATE, FARM HOUSEHOLDS PRODUCING MIKANS ARE PLANNING TO TAKE A DRASTIC PRODUCTION-STABILIZATION POLICY OF CUTTING DOWN 20 PERCENT OF THE MIKAN TREES OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. WE CANNOT PERMIT

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THE UPSETTING OF THE STABILITY OF FARM HOUSEHOLDS WITH IMPORTS FROM ABROAD."

(B) JUN SHIOZAKI, AGE 59; PRESENT: 3RD TERM LOWER HOUSE FROM EHIME PREF.; CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIV. POLICY AFFAIRS; RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LDP. UNTIL LATE 1960'S SERVED WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; INFLUENTIAL DECISION-

MAKER RE ORANGE TRADE POLICY.

(C) MORIYOSHI SATO, AGE 54; 3RD TERM LOWER HOUSE (LDP)
FROM HIROSHIMA PREF.

(D) YUKIO TASHIRO, AGE 61; 1ST TERM UPPER HOUSE (LDP)
FROM KUMAMOTO PREF.

(E) ISAO MAEDA, AGE 35; 1ST TERM UPPER HOUSE (LDP) FROM
WAKAYAMA PREF.

2. THE ABOVE TEAM MEMBERS' POSITION ON CITRUS ISSUE IS
CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH GOJ POSITION, I.E. (A) JAPAN SUFFERS
FROM OVER-PRODUCTION OF MIKANS AND PLANS TO CUT BACK
ACREAGE BY SOME 20 PERCENT. (COMMENT: BECAUSE MOSTLY POOR
YIELDING TREES WOULD BE TAKEN OUT OF PRODUCTION, OUTPUT IS
EXPECTED TO DECLINE BY ONLY ABOUT 6 PERCENT.) (B) JAPAN'S
SMALL-SCALE, HIGH-COST ORCHARDISTS CANNOT COMPETE WITH
AMERICAN CITRUS GROWERS WHO ENJOY LARGE HOLDINGS AND
ECONOMIES OF SCALE--UNRESTRICTED IMPORTS OF CITRUS WOULD
SWAMP THE JAPANESE MARKET TO THE DETRIMENT OF JAPANESE
PRODUCERS. (C) BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF
THE FARM VOTE, JAPAN WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MAKE
CONCESSIONS ON AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

3. POINTS WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO DRAW ON ARE:

- WHILE PRECISE STATISTICS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, MOST MIKAN
GROWERS, LIKE OTHER FARMERS IN JAPAN, DEPEND MORE ON NON-
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MIKAN OR NON-AGRICULTURAL JOBS FOR THEIR INCOME THAN MIKAN
OR OTHER AGRICULTURAL SOURCES. ONLY 18 PERCENT OF THE
NUMBER OF MIKAN GROWERS HOUSEHOLDS TALLING 342,000
CULTIVATE 1/2 - 1 HECTARE AND ONLY 11 PERCENT CULTIVATE
1 HECTARE OR MORE. SO INCOMES OF MOST MIKAN ORANGE GROWERS
ARE NOT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED BY PRESENCE OF IMPORT
RESTRICTIONS.

-WE BELIEVE THAT EVEN IF THE MARKET IS SIGNIFICANTLY OPENED
FOR FRESH ORANGES AND CITRUS JUICES, JAPANESE MIKANS AND
PRODUCTS WOULD CONTINUE TO SELL WELL. IN THE CASE OF
OKINAWA, A PREFECTURE THAT HAS A PER-CAPITA "SPECIAL"
ORANGE QUOTA THAT IS 15 TIMES THE PER-CAPITA NATIONAL
QUOTA, CONSUMPTION OF DOMESTIC ORANGES IS MORE THAN
TWICE THAT OF IMPORTED ORANGES.

4. UNDERSTAND FROM MAFF THAT MEMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL
ORGANIZATIONS LISTED BELOW WILL ACCOMPANY DIET MEMBERS BUT
MAY OR MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS DEPEND-
ING ON WASHINGTON JUDGMENT: GEN ABE, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
ZENCHU (CENTRAL UNION OF AGRIC. COOPS); TADAYOSHI
MALSUMOTO, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ZENNOH (NATL. FED. OF

AGRIC. COOP); KUNIHARU NAKAZAWA, MANAGER, HORTICULTURAL
DIV., ZENNOH; SEIJIRO OHTSUKA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, SAGA
PREF. HORTICULTURAL ASSN; SHOZO UENO, MANAGER, PROCESSED
PRODUCTS DEPT., SAGA PREF. HORTICULTURAL ASSN.

5. POSSIBILITY SIMILAR DIET MISSION ON BEEF HAS BEEN
MENTIONED HERE BUT FINAL DECISION HAS NOT BEEN REACHED.
GOJ OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN REMINDED ON SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES
IN WASHINGTON DURING PERIOD MID-AUGUST THROUGH EARLY SEPT.
MANSFIELD

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